

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0019] (page 5, lines 3-7) with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The cathode active material is a compound expressed by a general formula $A_xM_yPO_4$ (wherein A represents an alkali metal and M represents a transition or alkaline-earth metal, which are contained in the ranges of $0 < x \leq 2$ and $1 \leq y \leq 2$). In the compound expressed by a general formula $A_xM_yPO_4$ (hereinafter, simply referred to as $A_xM_yPO_4$), M preferably includes at least one of Co, Ni, Fe, Mn, Cu, Mg, Zn, Ca, Cd, Sr, and Ba.